

channels and exits the larger openings of channels. The initial velocity of the gas at the smaller openings is higher than the gas flow at the larger openings with the result that the gas is slowed down when it contacts the catalyst on the surface of membrane and the residence time of gas-catalyst contact is increased and the area of gas exposure at the membrane is maximized. This feature, together with the increased electrical conductivity of the flexible graphite electrode of the present invention enables more efficient fuel cell operation. Alternatively, in certain circumstances it may be desirable to have the pressurized gas flow through the larger openings of the channels and exit through the smaller openings of the channels.--

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#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 9 and 10 to read as follows:

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9. The flexible graphite sheet of claim 7 which further comprises a plurality of transverse fluid channels formed in the compressed sheet at a plurality of predetermined locations.

10. The flexible graphite sheet of claim 7 which further comprises at least one groove formed in at least one of the surfaces of the sheet by mechanically impacting an opposed surface of the sheet.

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